THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) to (c) A high power (10KW) TV transmitter in replacement of the existing low power (100w) TV transmitter is under implementation at Jabalpur. This transmitter was initially planned to be commissioned during 1991-92. However, there has been delay in construction of the tower as excavation of hard rock bottom at the tower site, by blasting, was not allowed by the local authorities because of a building existing nearby. This had, therefore, to be done by chiselling which took considerable time. Besides, difficulties were encountered in procurement of requisite quantity of cement and steel. Presently, the construction of transmitter building has been completed and the tower height has reached 50 Mtr. as agsinst the proposed height of 220 Mtr. The transmitter and TVRO equipment have also been installed. Pending completion of the permanent tower, the transmitter has been installed on a temporary mast, as an interim set-up, and has started giving test transmissions on a reduced power of 1 KW. As per present indications, the TV transmitter is envisaged to be commissioned into service on its full radiating power by the middle of 1993.

Formulation of guidelines for air and Doordarshan

1318. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRAODCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any guidelines for Doordarshan and AIR in regard to the coverage of demonstrations, rallies, yatras of political parties in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not the authority in AIR and Doordarshan who decides such Coverage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) Yes Sir while telecasting and broadcasting news in respect of demonstrations, rallies, yatras of political parties in the country in the National News Bulletins both Doordarshan and Akasnvani follow the following guidelines and norms laid down by the Government from time to time :

(i) Political activities are noticed based on their news worthiness.

(ii) Unbiased reportings of the news in respect of all the political parties.

(iii) Coverage of differing view points in the same bulletin to the extent possible.

(iv) Avoiding in the news bulletin the use of labels such as "progressive' and "cummunal " etc.

(v) In case of controversy about nomenclature of a political party following the name as approved by the Election Commission of India or by a Court of Law.

(vi) Coverage of political controversies based on objectivity and fair play.

(b) Does not arise.

Distortion of Facts relating to great martyr Khudiram Bose

1319. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the programme 'Bharat ke Shaheed' shown on Doordarshan the facts relating to the great martyr Khudiram Bose were distorted; and

(b) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed for this lapse and action taken against the responsible for this lapse ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Government's attention was drawn to some adverse comments about the said episode of the serial 'Bharat Ke Shaheed'. According to Doordarshan, the producers of the said serial have stated that they have projected the heroism and martyrdom of Khudiram Bose based on material collected by them from autobiographical accounts and available impressionistic narratives of that period with the best of intentions.

High level panel to study Doordarshan commercial Service

1320. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up high level panel to study Doordashan Commercial Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what percentage of T.V. telecast time is coverd by these commercial services and what has been the income year-wise in the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.C. Mahalik, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was set up to make recommendations for increasing Doordarshan's commercial revenue.

(c) According to Doordarshan about 3 per cent of total telecast time is covered by commercials. The gross revenue for the last three years is as under :

1988-89 Rs. 161·26 crores

1989-90 – Rs. 210·13 crores

1990-91 Rs. 253·85 crores

Independent production by Dibrugarh Doordarshan

1321. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dibrugarh Centre of the Doordarshan has been made ready for independent production;

(b) if so, by when the Production work of the Centre is going to be started; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) to (c) Installation work relating to establishment of a TV Studio Centre at Dibrugarh has been completed. The Centre would be commissioned after the requisite staff for production of programmes is in position for which necessary action has already been initiated. Meanwhile playback facilities at the Centre have been commissioned with effect from 20th December 1991 enabling Dibrugarh transmitter to telecast regional programmes procured from Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati for a limited duration.